

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method comprising the steps of:
 2 reading an identification code from a memory location on a codec, the
 3 identification code unique to a manufacturer of the codec; and
 4 loading a driver as a function of the identification code.
- 1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the driver is loaded only if the
 2 unique identification code is read from the codec.
- 1 3. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the loading step further comprises
 2 the step of:
 3 comparing the identification code to a list of codes having drivers associated
 4 therewith.
- 1 4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the driver is supplied by the
 2 manufacturer.
- 1 5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the identification code is assigned
 2 by an industry standards organization.

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- 1 6. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the loading step is conducted as
- 2 part of a PCI enumeration process.

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- 1 7. A PCI controller adaptable for coupling to a data processing system
2 comprising:
3 a codec query routine operable for reading an identification code from a
4 memory location on a codec, the identification code unique to a manufacturer of the
5 codec; and
6 a loader routine operable for loading a driver as a function of the identification
7 code, wherein the driver is loaded only if the unique identification code is read from
8 the codec.
- 1 8. The PCI controller as recited in claim 7, wherein the loader further compares
2 the identification code to a list of codes having drivers associated therewith.
- 1 9. The PCI controller as recited in claim 7, wherein the driver is supplied by the
2 manufacturer.
- 1 10. The PCI controller as recited in claim 9, wherein the identification code is
2 assigned by an industry standards organization.
- 1 11. The PCI controller as recited in claim 7, wherein the loading is conducted as
2 part of a PCI enumeration process.

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1 12. A data processing system comprising:
 2 a processor;
 3 a memory device coupled to the processor by a local bus;
 4 an input device coupled to the processor by the local bus;
 5 an output device coupled to the processor by the local bus;
 6 an operating system operable for running on the system;
 7 a driver stored in the memory device;
 8 a PCI bus coupled to the local bus;
 9 a controller coupled to the PCI bus;
 10 a codec coupled to the controller; and
 11 a connector coupled to the codec and adaptable for coupling to a
 12 telecommunications network, wherein the PCI controller further comprises:
 13 a codec query routine operable for reading an identification code from
 14 a memory location on a codec, the identification code unique to a manufacturer of the
 15 codec; and
 16 a loader routine operable for loading a driver as a function of the
 17 identification code, wherein the driver is loaded only if the unique identification code
 18 is read from the codec.

1 13. The data processing system as recited in claim 12, wherein the loader further
 2 compares the identification code to a list of codes having drivers associated therewith.

1 ~~17.~~ A controller comprising:
2 means for reading an identification code from a memory location on a codec,
3 the identification code unique to a manufacturer of the codec; and
4 means for loading a driver as a function of the identification code.

1 18. The controller as recited in claim 17, wherein the loading means further
2 comprises means for loading the driver only if the unique identification code is read
3 from the codec.

1 19. The controller as recited in claim 18, wherein the loading means further
2 comprises:
3 means for comparing the identification code to a list of codes having drivers
4 associated therewith.

1 20. The controller as recited in claim 19, wherein the driver is supplied by the
2 manufacturer.

1 21. The controller as recited in claim 20, wherein the identification code is
2 assigned by an industry standards organization.